

**Executive Committee for Highway Safety
Keeping Drivers Alert & Increasing Driver Safety Awareness
Working Group Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2004**

Location:

UNC HSRC, Chapel Hill @ 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Doug Robertson	Kimberly Overton	Adam Fisher	Jane Stutts
Kevin Lacy	Cliff Braam	Jackie Johnson	

Scribe:

Cliff Braam

Minutes:

- The meeting began at approximately 10:10 a.m.

Task I – Welcome/Introductions

- Doug opened the meeting, welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and participating. He provided some background information on why the group was there and highway safety issues in NC particularly as they related to crashes involving keeping drivers alert and distractions that drivers face.
- Next everyone in the group introduced themselves.

Task II – Overview Presentation

- Kevin gave a presentation providing background information on the ECHS, the accomplishments of the ECHS to date, the formation of the initial 6 Working Groups, and finally the role/charge of the working group and what was expected.
- Doug stated that the Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS) was different than any other initiative in the state and different than anything that has been done previously. He explained that this is a collective effort involving key stakeholders in highway safety from various agencies.
- Doug stated that there are often multiple casual factors involved in a crash and that we need to “break these down” to get at the root of the problem. Everyone in the highway safety arena has been doing their part to address these issues, but efforts have been in a “stove pipe” with little cross over. The ECHS is a way to better integrate and coordinate efforts to identify and fix the problems.

Kevin stated that highway related fatalities have a direct impact on everything that we do including our workloads.

Kevin said that the working group would be responsible for making recommendations back to the ECHS that the “State” could fund and implement.

Task III– Data Presentation

- Doug gave a presentation on specific data elements as related to crashes and fatalities involving keeping drivers alert and increasing driver safety awareness in North Carolina as a base for the group to begin thinking about issues and solutions. There was some discussion during the presentation and this is documented below.

Task IV– Brainstorming/Open Discussion/

Both during and after the presentation on the data, there was discussion about the issue and specific areas of possible focus. Listed below are some of the major discussion points.

Name	Discussion
Doug	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will need to look at the different combinations of casual factors to get at the root of the issues.
Jane	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to examine utilizing crash data to educate drivers. The DMV-349 contains a lot of information that could be useful.
Doug	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to take into account exposure, look at rates where this would be applicable.
Kimberly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to look at the noted driver’s physical conditions separately and need to take into account that under any or a combination of these conditions, drivers may act in a manner outside of their norm. For example, some one who always wears their seat belt, may not put it on if they were driving while extremely fatigued (possibly forget to put it on due to fatigued state?)
Jane	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is a tough area to grasp due to the problems associated with defining some of the parameters. i.e. what is fatigued?• Fell asleep crashes easier for the investigating officer to identify, due to fact that there are no skid marks prior to the collision. These crashes typically comprise about 1% of all crashes and 4% of fatal crashes.• Fatigue is not as easy to identify. By the time an officer gets to the crash scene, the driver is wide awake due to what has happened.• Both fatigue and fell asleep crashes are under reported.• Group may want/need to pull out smaller subsets at a given time and focus on those crashes instead of looking at everything all at once.• We need to be careful about how we define the issues.• Jane is working on another project concerning some of these same issues and should have more information in another month or so.

Task V– Additional Members

There was discussion about obtaining additional members for this working group to represent other areas that were deemed appropriate. These groups are listed below with the person responsible for initiating contact listed:

Agency	Responsible
DMV	Cliff – Don Ferrier w/ DMV
GHSP	Doug
Medical (Nurses Profession)	Cliff
Highway Design	Kevin
Law Enforcement (Rural Area)	Kimberly
Law Enforcement (Urban Area)	Kimberly
Insurance	Cliff
Vehicle Industry	Adam Fisher

- Once contact is made, if you will notify Cliff, he will send out information package and/or will go with you to meet the person to bring them up to date on the ECHS and the Working Group.

Action Items:

Name	Item
All	Initiate contact with additional members as noted in Task V
Jane	Provide a copy or link to electronic copy of Distraction Study to the Group
Cliff	Additional Data Needs Break out data by driver condition Map issues (Graphical representation) Break out data by Commercial Motor Vehicle Break out data by age
Cliff	Review data where the form changed in 2000 to determine reason for drop in numbers when new form went into effect. Were things over reported prior to, or underreported now?
Doug	Set up demo/presentation of camera study for next meeting.
DOT	Get our web person to set up a web site to post ECHS and Working Group data on.
Cliff	Map of issues; help better see where issues are.
Jane	Will review data to determine best way to further break out sub sets.

NEXT MEETING: May 27th at 10:00 – 1:00 at UNC HSCR